

FARM LABOR**LAKE REGION HIRED WORKERS UNCHANGED FROM OCTOBER 2003**

Lake Region: There were 72,000 hired workers on Lake Region (Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin) farms the week of October 10-16, 2004, unchanged from a year ago, according to the Minnesota Agricultural Statistics Service. Weather conditions in Minnesota during the survey week were cool and dry except for scattered showers at the end of the week, and sugarbeet harvest was in progress. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage rate of \$9.77 per hour during the October 2004 survey week, up by 7 cents from October 2003. Field workers received an average of \$9.06 per hour, a 19-cent decrease from a year ago. Livestock workers earned \$9.51 per hour compared with \$9.11 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock Workers combined wage rate at \$9.20 per hour was unchanged from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 39.7 for hired workers during the survey week compared with 37.7 hours a year ago.

United States: There were 1,173,000 hired workers on the Nation's farms and ranches during the week of October 10-16, 2004, down 2 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 851,000 were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 322,000 workers. Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$9.30 per hour during the October 2004 reference week, up 25 cents from a year ago. Field workers received an average of \$8.60 per hour, up 18 cents from last October, while livestock workers earned \$8.91 per hour compared with \$8.64 a year earlier. The Field and Livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.67 per hour, was up 20 cents from last year. The number of hours worked averaged 40.5 hours for hired workers during the survey week, up 1 percent from a year ago.

**WORKERS ON FARMS, HOURS WORKED PER WEEK, AND WAGE RATES FOR ALL HIRED WORKERS,
LAKE REGION AND UNITED STATES, OCTOBER 2004**

| | Lake Region 1/ | | United States 2/ | |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| | October 12-18 2003 | October 10-16 2004 | October 12-18 2003 | October 10-16 2004 |
| | 1,000 Workers | | | |
| Workers on Farms All Hired Workers | 72 | 72 | 1,197 | 1,173 |
| | Hours Per Week | | | |
| Hours Worked All Hired Workers | 37.7 | 39.7 | 40.2 | 40.5 |
| | Dollars Per Hour | | | |
| Workers By Work Type | | | | |
| Field | 9.25 | 9.06 | 8.42 | 8.60 |
| Livestock | 9.11 | 9.51 | 8.64 | 8.91 |
| Field & Livestock | 9.20 | 9.20 | 8.47 | 8.67 |
| All Workers | 9.70 | 9.77 | 9.05 | 9.30 |

1/Lake Region = Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Excludes agricultural service workers. 2/Excludes Alaska.